

From: Raymond Rizzo
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/17/01 12:51am
Subject: Settlement still insufficient

For quite some time now I have been following this case. I, as a tech., depend strongly on a decision that will force fair play in the market place. Microsoft as a whole has, as far as I have noticed, complete disrespect for any standardization. Which in its self is a step toward trying to force a monopoly. For example, when Netscape introduced Java Script microsoft decided to spin off a version that offered only enough limited compatability so as to force people to switch web browsers, following started the "Browser War". To further their plans for a takeover of the web market the then integrated Internet Explorer 4 into windows 95, and then following was the release of windows 98 which had no option of removal. This is what started the government intervention, but it doesnt stop there. With the release of Windows XP, Microsoft has, in the same fasion, bundled more of their software with the operating system without giving the user a means to remove it. Programs such as Windows Media Player, Windows Movie Maker, Microsoft Gaming Zone for example cannot be removed by standard uninstalation methods, nor even by deleting the files from the hard disk,, due to the fact that they are immediatly copied back regardless of the end user wanting the programs or not. This is the behavior that must be stopped, the company is doing exactly what it was doing before the court case had even started. The result is the end user being forced into using a Microsoft product to force competition out of the market. Look at any of the bundled applications that microsoft has added to their standard instalation and check the userbase of the bundled protuct vs competition. Exery time they incorporate another item into their product another companies userbase goes down. It is invasion of citizens own personal freedom to be forced keep a product they do not want, and it is an even greater injustice to let a company continue to abuse their position in a marketplace the way microsoft has. All I can ask, is that the settelment not only be based on a way to secure a free marketplace for the US, but to also help the millions of windows users attain the ability to choose what applications they want to use on their PC.

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